(b) whether updating of land Records is also being done in different States;

(c) the progress made in that regard so far, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of funds sought by State Governments and released by the Union Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) State-wise progress with details of funds released during the year 1996-97 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) and Computerisation of Land Records is enclosed as funds have not been released under these Schemes.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	Funds released during the 1996-97	
		SRA & ULR	Computerisation of Land Records
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.300	15.00
2.	Assam	-	80.00
3.	Goa	6.250	20.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	148.925	60.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	193.000	-
6.	Karnataka	166.620	95.00
7.	Kerala	123.680	30.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	332.275	45.00
9.	Maharashtra	234.000	241.00
10.	Manipur	-	125.00
11.	Mizoram	26.500	60.00
12.	Orissa	-	270.00
13.	Punjab	53.900	75.00
14.	Rajasthan	63.785	210.00
15.	Sikkim	33.600	-
16.	Tamil Nadu	-	210.00
17.	Tripura	25.500	15.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	232.120	270.00
19.	West Bengal	200.000	180.00
Union Territories			
20.	Chandigarh	-	15.00
21.	Delhi	10.000	-
22.	Lakshadweep	12.210	-
23.	Pondicherry	14.910	-
	All India	1914.575	2016.00

Upgradation of Meteorological Centre, Guwahati

3692. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned to upgrade the Meteorological Centre at Guwahati to a Regional Centre with all administrative and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Regional Centre at Guwahati is going to be a truncated centre; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER. K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The Meteorological Centre at Guwahati has already been upgraded to Regional Meteorological Centre with its headquarters at Guwahati w.e.f. 1-4-1997 with all administrative, financial and technical powers. It is headed by a Deputy Director General of Meteorology and is a full-fledged Regional Meteorological Centre like IMD's five other Regional Meteorological Centres headquartered at Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bombay and Madras.

Damaged Microwave Tower

3693. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telecommunications link with Gunupur Main Exchange and other exchanges of Koraput District Engineering have been disrupted due to damage of Microwave Tower near Gumma-Laxmipuram;

(b) if so, the reasons for continuing with temporary alternative channels till date;

(c) the technical reasons for delay in providing optic fibre link with Gunupur Telephone Exchange after completion of cable work thereof;

(d) whether the monitoring of telecommunications system in DET Koraput, Orissa is done on time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Telecommunication links to Gunupur were disrupted due to blasting of a microwave repeater at Gumma by some extremists. The trunk service to Gunupur was, however, restored immediately by installing an 8 channel Open Wire carrier system. In June, 96 it was replaced by one MCPC-VSAT to provide STD service. An Optical Fibre link connecting Gunupur as a permanent arrangement was commissioned on 30.07.97 and is working satisfactorily.

(c) The delay in commissioning of the Optic Fibre connectivity was due to the following reasons:

(i) In April '97 a 3 phase power feeding transformer at Gunupur OFC developed fault. It was replaced in June, 1997.

(ii) An end link connecting the OFC station at Gunupur to Berhampur TAX was commissioned in July '97 to extend the circuits.

(iii) There was delay in the construction of the building at Parlakhemundi, Gunupur and Ramanguda.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The operational Planning cell of CGMT Orissa closely monitors, through technical vigilance report, the working of exchanges, transmission systems in addition to the monitoring of the same by TDE Koraput himself.

Ist/IInd Class Passes for Train Journeys

3694. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum pay scale required for getting Ist/IInd class passes for train journeys in the case of Railway Board employees;

(b) the minimum scale required for the same in other departments;

(c) the reasons for discrimination towards Railway Board employees in this regard;

(d) whether the Government allow the employees of Railway Board to opt for either multiple IInd class tickets or the single to and fro upper class tickets or passes as in the case of other departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Eligibility for getting Ist Class pass on privilege account in Indian Railways including Railway Board employees is as follows :

I. Employees appointed prior to 01.08.1969

(i) drawing pay of Rs. 1530/- or above provided the employees are in a scale the maximum of which is Rs. 2040/- or above.

(ii) Nurses drawing pay of Rs. 1400/- or above and Lady Health Visitors drawing pay of Rs. 1230/- or above

II. Employees appointed on or after 01.08.1969 and not later than 31.03.1987

(i) drawing pay of Rs. 1680/- or above provided they are in a scale the maximum of which is Rs. 2200/- or above.

(ii) Nurses/Lady Health Visitors drawing pay of Rs. 1480/- or above

III. Employees appointed on or after 01.04.1987

Drawing pay of Rs. 2301/- or above or if they are in a scale the minimum of which is Rs. 2000/-.

IV. Eligibility for getting II Class Passes on privilege account in Indian Railways including Railway Board employees is as follows :

All Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees other than those mentioned above.

(b) There is no system of Passes in other Departments.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mining in Maharashtra

3695. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private sector companies in the country which have been permitted to undertake mining activities in Maharashtra;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down for permitting private sector companies to undertake mining activities;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the private sector companies are violating the norms and conditions of the Government and illegally conducting mining activities; and

(d) if so the action taken by the Government in this regard?